



US Army Active Duty Air Defense Artillery



Spc. Matthew Williams, cavalry scout, 2nd Cavalry Regiment fires a Stinger missile using Man-Portable Air Defense Systems during Artemis Strike, a live-fire exercise at the NATO Missile Firing Installation off the coast of Crete, Greece, Nov. 6, 2017. (Sgt. 1st Class Jason Epperson/10th Army Air and Missile Defense Public Affairs Office)

10th Army Air and Missile Defense Command

As the 10th Army Air and Missile Defense Command began Fiscal Year 2017, the unit was geared up for what would be “the year of execution” across U.S. Army Europe. The 5th Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery Regiment trained hard through rain, sleet and snow in preparation for the challenging Patriot gunnery Table XII certifications and external evaluation. A significant highlight was Tobruq Legacy, where more than 1,800 Soldiers and airmen from 22 nations came together to enhance the interoperability of NATO surface-based air defense forces across multiple countries to include Lithuania, Czech Republic and Romania.

Another high point during Fiscal Year 2017 was Artemis Strike, a German-led multinational tactical live-fire exercise at the NATO Missile Firing Installation in Chania, Crete. Soldiers from 5-7th ADA worked with more than 650 German airmen from Surface Air and Missile Defense Wing 1 to create an integrated air and missile defense system construct as part of a NATO tactical evaluation

with Patriot, Avenger, Stinger Man Portable Air Defense Systems and Ozelot systems putting steel on target. Not to be overlooked, Aurora 17 was truly one event that made history.

The execution of Aurora 17 was Sweden’s largest exercise in history. It enabled American Patriot fire units to enhance their partnership with Swedish air and missile defense forces while sending a direct message to deter Russian aggression within the region and enable Sweden to work more regularly with NATO. This historic event involved more than 20,000 Soldiers from nine separate countries. It was a direct response to a growing Russian influence and a forever changing dynamic in the Baltics region. More importantly, it was one of the first exercises where Sweden openly worked side-by-side with multiple NATO countries. American participation was especially critical to the success of this exercise through the deployment of U.S. Patriot assets and served to build a strong relationship between both Swedish and American air and missile defense (AMD) forces. The 5-7th ADAR integrated with the Luftvärnsregementet Swedish Air Defense Regiment by developing and testing tactics, techniques and procedures and standard oper-

ating procedures required to support the Multinational Kill Chain Exercise (MKCE) made up of U.S., French and Swedish AMD forces. This MKCE relied on interoperability of different weapon systems and sensors provided by a joint tactical data interface link (TADIL-J/Link-16), which generated a common operational picture between the Swedish Air Operations Center, the Deployable Information and Coordination Center and the U.S. Patriot firing units.

During the exercise, Swedish and American sensors detected air tracks and Swedish AOC and U.S. DPICC processed these while U.S. Patriot firing units engaged. In addition to the MKCE, U.S. Soldiers also worked with their Swedish partners to coordinate, plan and execute several small arms and crew-served weapons ranges. These events increased unit readiness, provided familiarization of both Swedish and French weapon systems and enabled a 550 kilometer convoy across the country of Sweden. During the course of three weeks, the hard work and dedication of the Soldiers from 5-7th ADA and Lv-6 resulted in the successful execution of all lines of efforts. Simply put: deep and lasting relationships were built during this historic exercise—tactical relationships were formed with strategic, more lasting impacts.

While one year ends and another begins, it is filled with new and unique challenges. As U.S. Army Europe transitions into the “year of integration,” training with allies and partners will play a pivotal role in the combat readiness of 10th AAMDC. During 2018, 10th AAMDC will participate in Juniper Cobra, which will train and exercise tactical units and a joint task force staff. Another ex-

ercise on the horizon is Saber Strike 18, a premier combined arms maneuver exercise focused on reinforcing deterrence measures and reassuring NATO allies in the Baltic States and Poland. For Soldiers in the 10th AAMDC, the “year of integration” is sure to be one filled with opportunities.

32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command, *Blackjack*

The 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command, located at Fort Bliss, Texas, is the sole active component air and missile defense (AMD) functional command in U.S. Forces Command and the global force provider of AMD capability. The 32nd AAMDC, *Blackjack*, executes training readiness authority for four separate ADA brigades comprising nearly 80 percent of all active component air defense artillery.

Globally engaged and strategically responsive, 32nd AAMDC maintains a continual forward presence in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility, while providing forces worldwide to deter aggression and promote stability. This year, 32nd AAMDC supported U.S. European Command exercise Austere Challenge, conducted two combatant command focused brigade-level planning exercises, and a rehearsal of concept at the component level in CENTCOM.

Notably, in 2017, 32nd AAMDC successfully executed the forward-stationing of Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) capability to Korea while balancing THAAD support to global

A noncommissioned officer from Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command works the situational training exercise lanes during the annual Blackjack Warrior Competition Week at Fort Bliss, Texas, July 2017. (Sgt. Aura Conejos/32nd AAMDC).



operational and modernization requirements. The command also provided counter-rocket, artillery and mortar protection to Operation Inherent Resolve and Operation Freedom's Sentinel, and maintained AMD protection of critical assets across the CENTCOM area of responsibility. Placing high emphasis on mastering AMD core competencies, 32nd AAMDC supported over 20 joint air and missile defense exercises to include Red Flag, Blue Flag and multiple Fleet Synthetic Trainer exercises, as well as the command's first expeditionary deployment in support of Air Missile Defense Exercise.

Over the past year, the command remained steadfast in all areas of readiness, including training readiness with the implementation this year of Objective-T. The command also executed command inspections and mission rehearsal exercises across four brigades and six installations. At the Soldier level, the focus on core skills and readiness culminated in the July 2017 *Blackjack Warrior Week* Competition. Meanwhile, the 32nd AAMDC remained at the forefront of the effort to modernize the ADA force with Patriot Configuration 3+ and PAC-3 Missile Segment Enhanced testing. These and other modernization efforts will ensure the Army's ADA forces are ready and responsive for 32nd AAMDC's next 50 years. Swift and Sure!

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11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, Imperial

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, Hammer

The year of 2017 started off in the "run" phase. The *Imperial Brigade* welcomed the year in maintaining the global response force (GRF) mission after certification in November 2016. As the unit relinquished GRF responsibilities, the brigade quickly reorganized and by mid-February, took to the training mindset and supported the 10th Army Air Missile Defense Command in Germany, in support of Operation Austere Challenge 2017. This was a training exercise designed to test the air missile defense structure against an air missile threat in a European Command scenario, a first for the 11th ADA Brigade. The Soldiers accepted the challenge and helped

their sister division hone its command and control skills to optimal proficiency. By the time the summer months rolled around 11th ADA was poised to prepare and execute our mission rehearsal exercise in preparation for deployment. During the month of July it was the *Imperial Brigade's* turn to hone command and control skills according to the rigorous standard set by their division, the 32nd Army Air Missile Defense Command, certifying the brigade for deployment.

Upon deploying, the *Top Notch* and *Imperial Brigades* combined to become the largest air defense artillery brigade in the Army with three firing Patriot battalions, a missile defense battery, along with three firing Patriot battalions and three Terminal High Altitude Area Defense batteries at home station; Fort Bliss, Texas. All said, the brigade's combat operating strength is six of the 15 Patriot firing battalions in the Army.

The brigade's No. 1 priority is combat readiness, managing transitions and building relationships, with special emphasis on theater security cooperation. The *Imperial Brigade* will always be ready to protect the combatant commander's critical assets.

The *Imperial* vision is humble: to be the best air defense brigade in the world, consisting of trained, responsible, motivated and caring Soldiers and families, capable of executing any air defense or assigned mission with unequaled success.

Train to Fight. Battle Ready.

11th ADA *Imperial Brigade*: www.facebook.com/pages/11TH-ADA-Imperial-Brigade/137584586302412

HHB, 11th ADA Brigade: <https://www.facebook.com/HHBFR-G11ADA>

1st Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, Cobra Strike

First Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, safely re-deployed from a 12-month mission in support of Central Command's Operation Spartan Shield, a ballistic missile defense mission intended to preserve, protect and enhance the capability of the CENTCOM area of responsibility in the defense of its general populace and territorial assets. The battalion's overall mission was

Soldiers from the 11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade board a plane during a recent deployment. (Courtesy photo)





Spec. Haden Finley runs power cables while emplacing the Electric Power Plant. The Warrior Battalion executed Table VIII Intermediate Patriot Gunnery Certifications throughout the month of November while deployed to U.S. Central Command. (1st Lt. Micah A. Uchida/U.S. Army)

to defend a population center of 1.5 million people in order to deter Iranian aggression.

The *Cobra Strike Battalion* is currently a focus readiness battalion in charge of providing combat capability to combatant commanders in support of worldwide missile defense contingencies at any given moment. The air defenders maintain training, personnel and equipment readiness and are postured for a “ready now” response to fight and win in a complex environment. In addition, the battalion continues to reinforce the Partner in Education program by affiliating with Burnet and Dolphin Terrace Elementary through the El Paso Independent School District with the focus on building and maintaining community relations. The *Cobra Strike* Soldiers are consistently working to strengthen the workforce and ensure the safety of their battle buddies by creating programs such as Eliminate the Risk, El Paso. This program provides safe, reliable and free transportation to the Soldiers of the *Cobra Strike Battalion*. *Cobra Strike* strives every day to achieve mission success by building lasting relationships with the Soldiers and their families.

Facebook: 1-43 ADA *Cobra Strike Battalion*

<http://facebook.com/cobrastrikebattalion>

2nd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, Warriors

After a hard, rigorous nine-month train-up period, 2nd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery, *Warrior Battalion*, took over the PAT-Central mission from 1st Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery

in the third quarter of Fiscal Year 2017. Before the transfer of authority, each crew in the battalion certified on the Patriot equipment in theater to demonstrate the crew’s proficiency at executing air and missile defense operations. Each month, the crews continued to certify, in excess of 40 operational readiness exercises throughout the deployment.

Despite a high operational tempo and dedicated maintenance schedule, Soldiers of the *Warrior Battalion* pursued self-development by attending the Basic Leaders Course and various other schools to help them progress in their careers. The *Warrior Battalion* also had five noncommissioned officers graduate from the prestigious Patriot Master Gunner Course, while deployed, with a 100 percent pass rate.

The *Warrior Battalion* hosted the 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command command chief warrant officer and his team for their deployed compliance and standards and discipline checks, where the battalion was recognized as the best unit they have inspected to date. The 2-43 ADA is the first unit to achieve an 100 percent pass rate on the compliance checks; a testament to the technical and tactical competence and overall excellence that each *Warrior* strives to achieve. The *Warrior’s* legacy of excellence and mission accomplishment will forever be etched in the history books of air defense artillery.

Strength in Honor! Second to None!

2-43rd ADA Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/243A-DA/>



Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 3rd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery, erect an antenna mast group during an Information and Coordination Central certification at Forward Operating Base Stallion, within the Fort Bliss, Texas, and White Sands Missile Range Complex, N.M. (Courtesy photo)

3rd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery, Legion

In 2017, 3rd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery, *Legion*, continued as the Department of the Army selected Patriot battalion to support air defense modernization. The battalion's modernization effort (upgrading to Post Deployment Build-8) is the largest modernization effort in decades and over the past 10 months, the battalion completed a Patriot recapitalization and solidified the honor of the first PDB-8 (configuration 3+) battalion in the 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command. To date, the battalion fired 15 Patriot missiles in support of the PDB-8 and Missile Segment Enhanced testing and, in late November, fully validated both programs for full materiel release and full rate production. To achieve these milestones, the battalion conducted three extensive operations covering thousands of miles and targeting the most advanced enemy threat replicas and scenarios ever developed for the Patriot system.

From North White Sands Missile Range, N.M., to the islands of the Kwajalein Atoll in the Pacific Ocean, the battalion deployed, engaged and proved the most capable Patriot weapon system in the Army. Simultaneously, the battalion managed two Terminal High Altitude Defense battery global response force assumptions by B Battery, 2nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment and A Battery, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment and the subsequent flawless deploy-

ment of A-4th ADA to Korea on an accelerated mission to support Pacific Command. Moving forward, the battalion is postured to deploy for any worldwide contingency and is ready to support future branch modernization efforts. *Send the Legion!*

5th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, Team Deuce

For the past 12 months, 5th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, has maintained one primary focus, readiness. Readiness has been the central theme of every task and exercise the battalion has done since July of 2016. Fifth-52nd ADA, known as *Team Deuce*, has tackled a multitude of challenges; from completing a battalion field training exercise while manned at less than 50 percent to completing their mission rehearsal exercise with stellar results. The battalion exceeded expectations in the face of every challenge leading up to the culmination of their training, deploying to the Central Command area of responsibility where they will have the ability to showcase their tactical and technical skills.

After assuming the global response force mission during the fourth quarter of 2016, the battalion shifted its focus to preparing for the CENTCOM mission, while maintaining the ability to deploy on a moment's notice. That commitment to readiness led to 5-52nd's standard setting exercise. During the mission rehearsal exercise, the battalion was able to showcase their ability to fight advanced air battles, maintain combat power, and plan against dynamic and evolving threats. The Soldiers' aggressive execution of



Soldiers from B Battery, 5th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, conduct a guided missile transport reload, Oct. 24, 2017. (Courtesy photo)

the exercise allowed them to complete all requirements in only 10 days instead of the standard 20 days.

Upon completion of the exercise, the battalion began packing and preparing for their mission. While also executing qualification ranges, completing property book inventories, and allowing Soldiers to take pre-deployment leave, the battalion ensured all air battle crews received their required air battle management training in order to continue building their tactical skills. This commitment to readiness was evident in every facet of their deployment preparation as the battalion met all pre-deployment requirements while executing a seamless property transition with their sister battalion.

Readiness will continue to be the central theme for 5-52nd ADA as they deploy. The battalion is tasked with ensuring they maintain complete coverage of strategic assets while maintaining the ability to fight advanced level air battles. Their competencies will be tested during the deployment through multiple evaluations and competitions. In addition to their commitment to combat readiness, the battalion will emphasize individual Soldier development as scholars, athletes, and leaders through their Objective Platinum campaign plan to ensure all *Team Deuce* Soldiers become complete leaders both on duty and off duty.

5-52nd ADA Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TheOnlyTeamDeuce/?fref=nf>

A Battery, 2nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, Gunslingers

In July 2017, Soldiers from A Battery, 2nd Air Defense Artillery Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) conducted a deployment readiness exercise to Kodiak, Alaska, in the Aleutian Islands. While there they conducted multiple test launches of their weapon system against both medium-range and intermediate-range ballistic missile targets. A Battery, 2nd ADA's successful intercepts validated the THAAD weapon system's capability to defend against the advancing missile threats in the Pacific region and elsewhere, protecting our homeland, forces abroad, and allied nations.

<https://www.facebook.com/A2ADA/>

A Battery, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

A Battery, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) Battery, as part of the 3rd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, trained, certified and deployed on short notice to the Republic of South Korea in response to increased tactical ballistic missile (TBM) and nuclear threats issued by the People's Republic of North Korea. The superior air defense capabilities and strategic and geopolitical influence of the



Soldiers from A Battery, 2nd Air Defense Artillery fire the first Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) interceptor launched from the Pacific Spaceport Complex-Alaska in Kodiak, Alaska. The THAAD successfully intercepted an air-launched Intermediate-Range Ballistic Missile target on July 11, 2017. (U.S. Missile Defense Agency)



Soldiers from A Battery, 4th Air Defense Artillery, conduct air operations for a logistics and personnel movement to a site in the Republic of Korea. (Courtesy photo)

THAAD system made A-4th ADA the perfect candidate to deploy in defense of South Korea and deter hostile threats.

While forward deployed to the Republic of South Korea in support of Combined Task Force Defender, A-4th ADA operated from a remote Tactical THAAD Site (TACSITE), the first of its kind in the world, in the Seongju Province. Public unrest prohibited vehicle traffic from accessing the site via ground and the unit was required to fly personnel, fuel, equipment and supply to and from

the TACSITE by helicopter. A-4th ADA was responsible for tracking all personnel, supply, food, water and fuel on the TACSITE and coordinating for all movements and resupplies.

On several occasions, A-4th ADA crews witnessed North Korean short, intermediate and intercontinental TBM test launches and were the first reporting source of such activities. The powerful THAAD radar enabled the unit to acquire the hostile threats before other sources and provided early warning to joint and allied partners. A-4th ADA's air defense systems, along with highly skilled and competent operators, collected precious data on all test launches. A-4th ADA operators collected critical national security data on the threat and provided it to the Missile Defense Agency where the data will be further analyzed to gain a better understanding of North Korea's TBM capabilities.

B Battery, 2nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment

B Battery, 2nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) was established in April 2014. After a successful culminating training exercise in November 2016, B/2nd ADAR successfully deployed in defense of Guam and U.S. assets against a tactical ballistic missile threat from North Korea. After a successful 12-month mission, the unit redeployed to Fort Bliss, Texas, and was quickly assigned as a global response force (GRF) unit. Over the past 12 months, B/2nd ADAR executed numerous deployment readiness exercises and field training exercises (basic/mission qualification), in accordance with all 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command GRF requirements. B/2nd ADAR is ready to respond now to a worldwide emerging threat in order to protect U.S. and allied nation assets.

Facebook: B-2 ADA THAAD

https://www.facebook.com/pg/b2thaad/photos/?ref=page_internal

31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade, Archer Brigade

The 31st Air Defense Artillery, *Archer Brigade*, continued its drive to success through 2017 under the command of Col. Janice Chen and Command Sgt. Maj. Jerry Jacobitz. The brigade spent much of the year training to assume the ADA brigade headquarters' prepare to deploy mission. In January and April the brigade conducted two internal command post exercises (CPXs). These missions focused on air defense academics, command post/site layout and internal network communications, and brigade battle drills during simulated scenarios. Additionally, the Headquarters and Headquarters Battery commander executed multiple deployment readiness exercises and 30 km tactical road marches to prepare the unit to deploy, operate and sustain itself in austere conditions.

From May to June the brigade executed its second counter-rocket, artillery and mortar (C-RAM) battalion mission rehearsal exercise (MRE) in support of the 2nd Battalion, 174th Air Defense Artillery, Ohio Army National Guard. The MRE included system of systems integration, a CPX, a live-fire exercise, and a culminating training event (CTE). The *Archer Brigade* was successful in preparing, supporting and certifying the 2-174th ADA's tactical command post, battery command posts, engagement operation battle drills, and staff procedures through progressive gunnery tables. Another C-RAM MRE in July 2017 certified an additional battery from the 82nd Airborne Divisional Artillery. Both MREs successfully prepared these Soldiers to deploy and perform C-RAM operations in the U.S. Central Command area of operations.

Thirty-first ADA's role in Tobruq Legacy 17/Saber Guardian 17 kept the ball rolling from June to August as the brigade headquarters

conducted expeditionary deployment operations to Mihail Kogalniceanu Airbase, Romania, in order to fulfill U.S. Forces Command requirements. Upon arrival, the brigade executed a CTE evaluated by a team from 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command. The brigade staff conducted battle synchronization, battle tracking, and sustainment requirements in order to certify to assume the brigade headquarters' prepare to deploy mission. Immediately after successful completion of the CTE, the brigade headquarters transitioned to support Tobruq Legacy 17/Saber Guardian 17, working closely with 4th Infantry Division and 10th Army Air and Missile Defense Command. The brigade's air defense artillery fire coordination officer teams supported the exercise control and reporting center in Bucharest, while the brigade tactical operations center (TOC) provided mission command of 5th Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery and 2nd Battalion, 263rd Air Defense Artillery, South Carolina Army National Guard.

Upon completion of recovery and reintegration from the deployment to Romania, Operation Archer Vengeance took precedence for the Headquarters Battery during the months of September and October. The primary purpose of Archer Vengeance was to conduct a CTE to certify 4-3rd ADA to assume the Patriot battalion prepared to deploy mission in the fall of 2017. The *Archer Brigade* led the way once again during this mission by successfully establishing tactical sites and communications, while also conducting deployment readiness procedures, air defense operations, force protection measures and brigade TOC operations.

<https://www.facebook.com/31stAirDefenseArtilleryBrigade/>

3rd Battalion, 2nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, Lethal Strike

Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 2nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, *Lethal Strike*, returned from post-deployment block leave in January 2017 following a year-long deployment to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility (AOR) in support of Operation Spartan Shield and Operation Inherent Resolve. During this period, the battalion's Patriot equipment was taken to Letterkenny Army Depot for maintenance to sustain the battalion's readiness for an upcoming Fiscal Year 2018 deployment. Simultaneously, the battalion initiated focused individual readiness training and validated a mission command platoon and three separate platoons to assume the Fort Sill, Okla., incident reaction force (IRF) mission in March 2017. The unit maintained the battery (+) IRF mission through September 2017 by sustaining trained and readily available platoons to respond at a moment's notice to any garrison threat or natural disaster.

The battalion conducted a change of responsibility from Command Sgt. Maj. Gary Plotnick to Command Sgt. Maj. Tammy Coleman March 10, 2017, and a change of command from Lt. Col. Matthew Dalton to Lt. Col. Pedro Camacho III June 9, 2017. Additionally, throughout the spring and summer months, the battalion experienced a significant change in leadership, welcoming battalion executive officer Maj. Daniel Corbett, battalion S3 Maj. Michael 'Woody' Woodhouse, and S3 Sgt. Maj. Quinnus Caldwell.

The battalion's subordinate units also experienced changes in leadership: *Hammer Battery* led by Capt. Jeremie Regnier and 1st Sgt. Justin Phillips; *Assassins Battery* led by Capt. Chris Ono and 1st Sgt. Brett McCray; *Beast Battery* led by Capt. Matthew Gremillion and 1st Sgt. Chris Cooper; *Centurion Battery* led by Capt. William Abbott and 1st Sgt. Antonio Golden; *Death Dealer Battery* led by Capt. Megan Parris and 1st Sgt. Marques Johnson; and *Enforcer Company* led by Capt. Neal Mooers and 1st Sgt. Brian Kimes.

Upon return of the final Patriot equipment from LEAD in August, the battalion conducted a battalion field training exercise cen-

tered on air and missile defense (AMD) operations. The focus was air battle management for the new AMD crews. This field exercise also served as a venue to conduct a joint training exercise with the 970th Airborne Air Control Squadron from Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. The event coordinated the Air Force Airborne Warning and Control System and Patriot Early Warning operators utilizing Link 16 to create a shared air picture.

As the *Lethal Strike Battalion* managed a high operational tempo, it also continued to support the local community through its volunteer programs. The battalion reenergized its Army Partnership with Local Area Schools, sponsoring Pioneer Park Elementary School. Partnership events included a highly successful pencil drive in the spring, as well as a back-to-school school supply drive to help children in need. The battalion and the school are working together to improve the citizenship and learning experience of children in Southwest Oklahoma.

In September, the battalion participated in the 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Standardized Patriot Engagement Assessment of Readiness (SPEAR). This training greatly expanded battalion and battery crews' level of expertise in air battle management. Evaluators provided feedback to the information and coordination central, engagement control station, and battery command post crews, enabling a greater level of understanding and experience. Following SPEAR, the battalion embarked on Table VII training which led to Table VIII certifications in October.

In October 2017, the ADA commandant, Brig. Gen. Randall McIntire, approved the Regimental Honorary Leaders recognizing the honorary colonel, retired Col. Jimmy Jenkins; the honorary command sergeant major, retired Command Sgt. Maj. Ricky Lovett; and the honorary warrant officer, retired Chief Warrant Officer Claflin. In mid-October, the battalion concluded the Table VIII certifications with all units certifying, completing one of the pre-deployment requirements. The *Lethal Strike Team* continued to prioritize efforts in November for its December USCENTCOM mission readiness exercise. The 31st ADA will assess the *Lethal Strike Team* with support from theater-deployed 1st Battalion, 7th ADA augmenters. Upon completion of the exercise, the battalion will be certified to deploy and transition to pre-deployment block leave over the holiday season. The *Lethal Strike Battalion* is on glide path to reassume the same deter and defend mission in the USCENTCOM AOR that its Soldiers successfully accomplished almost 15 months ago.

Lethal Strike-Battle Ready!

<https://www.facebook.com/3.2adabn/>

4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery, *I Strike!*

Readiness was the watchword for 2017 in the 4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, commanded by Lt. Col. Timothy Woodruff and Command Sgt. Maj. Bryon Mulligan. And for the *I Strike! Battalion* this meant a heavy focus on training, maintenance and new equipment fielding.

The battalion started the year by upgrading to the most cutting-edge Patriot software and hardware, followed by fielding the Army's newest small arms and crew-served weapons and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear protective equipment. Throughout the process, 4-3rd ADA Soldiers executed a crawl, walk, run approach to the new equipment; training both in academic settings and with hands-on instruction led by technicians from Raytheon and the unit's own subject matter experts.

Patriot gunnery tables were next on the calendar and progressed

from the operator-level, to the battery-level, and on to collective battalion-level Patriot Table VIII gunnery certifications. Not content to simply execute gunnery tables in a sterilized environment, the battalion chose to conduct them while operating in a simulated austere environment with a persistent opposing force threat permeating the battlespace.

Upon the completion of gunnery certifications, *I Strike! Soldiers* did not rest on their laurels, but instead proved their Patriot war-fighting capabilities and rapid deployment ability by sending the battalion to Fort Riley, Kan., for the unit's culminating training exercise. The exercise consisted of multiple air battle management scenarios, master scenario event list injects, and other tactical training dilemmas. The exercise concluded with a successful battalion-level tactical road march of 440 miles back to home station at Fort Sill, Okla.

After the exercise, the battalion once again assumed the role of the air defense global response force. While it maintains this duty, the battalion stands ready to deploy, fight, and win at a moment's notice anywhere in the world.

https://www.facebook.com/43AirDefenseArtillery/?ref=br_rs

5th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery, *Dragonslayers*

The *Dragonslayers* of 5th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery, commanded first by Lt. Col. Judson Gillett and then by Lt. Col. Troy Bucher, along with Command Sgt. Maj. Steve Hall Sr., had an extremely busy and successful year in 2017. The battalion deployed in support of U.S. Central Command for Operation Freedom's Sentinel and Operation Inherent Resolve. A Battery was responsible for the entirety of the Afghanistan area of responsibility (AOR) while B Battery and C Battery split the responsibility for the Iraq AOR. Headquarters and Headquarters Battery deployed two elements to both theaters of operations to provide oversight and logistical support for the line batteries. While the forward elements transitioned with 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment and ensured there was no loss of established counter-rocket, artillery and mortar (C-RAM) coverage, the Rear Detachment element at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., began operations to stand the unit up at Fort Sill, Okla.

While deployed, A Battery placed an emphasis on providing non-military occupational specialty-qualified Soldiers the opportunity to advance their careers by attending the Bagram Airfield Basic Leader's Course (BLC) for junior enlisted Soldiers. In addition to providing C-RAM coverage and ensuring Soldiers careers were not impacted by the deployment, A Battery also helped to install the intercept capability into a coalition forces base in southern Afghanistan. B Battery Soldiers participated in a spur ride with two of Soldiers earning their spurs. C Battery focused on facilitating OIR in an austere environment through site improvement of both the battery fighting positions and of the base itself. Additionally, both B and C batteries emphasized career progression by sending Soldiers to attend BLC in Kuwait.

In July, the battalion completed a relief in place and transfer of authority with the Ohio National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 174th Air Defense Artillery Regiment. In every location, incoming Soldiers of the 2-174th ADA had nothing but positive things to say as they drew upon the knowledge and experience of the *Dragonslayers*, while the unit completed preparations to return home. As each element completed its transition, the leadership of the 2-174th ADA sought to recognize various *Dragonslayers* through the presentation of challenge coins to those that performed above their peers.

After recovery, reintegration and block leave, the battalion focus was on completing the move to Fort Sill, Okla., as well as training for its next deployment and support for units rotating through the National Training Center. The battalion reorganized itself to meet personnel shortages across the formation, and cross-trained Soldiers from different military occupational specialties to meet mission requirements. Key leaders and personnel also moved to Fort Sill to facilitate the unit coming online at its new home in Oklahoma. The battalion Rear Detachment element officially deactivated in December, closing a chapter in its history at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

During 2017, 5-5th ADA accomplished amazing feats in training, deployments, and relocation preparations. Achievements in the face of adversity have built unity among the formation and lasting memories that invoke unit pride and unbreakable bonds among the Soldiers of the unit. The road ahead will be tough and filled with long days, but the Soldiers and families of the *Dragon-slayer Battalion* eagerly await the coming challenges and opportunities with a fierce mentality of success.

<https://www.facebook.com/5th-Battalion-5th-Air-Defense-Artillery-Regiment-173362599415940/>

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, *Execute!*

In February of 2017, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade redeployed from the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility (AOR) in support of Operation Freedom Sentinel. The brigade headquarters served nine months successfully supporting the air defense mission, helping sustain readiness throughout the AOR.

In April of 2017, HHB hosted the brigade's annual golf scramble tournament in order to raise funds and build esprit de corps amongst the battalions. Thirty-six teams across the formation participated in this event which raised over \$1,000 and handed out as much in gifts and prizes.

In May, the brigade command sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Brown, conducted a change of responsibility with the incoming Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas William.

In June, Col. Richard Harrison relinquished command to Col. Curtis W. King after 24 months as the 69th ADA commander.

From Nov. 1-8, HHB participated in a brigade-level field training exercise (FTX) which tested the unit's abilities to rapidly deploy to an austere environment with an asymmetric threat. On Nov. 1, HHB was recalled and began deployment readiness exercise Level 2 operations. During the FTX, the battery completed and validated mission essential task list tasks, and successfully conducted a combined live-fire exercise with 1st Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery. After sustaining operations for 96 hours, the brigade was given the order to move. The next day HHB jumped the brigade tactical operations center (TOC), the first time they have done this in recent memory. Forty-eight hours later the TOC jumped once more. During this move, HHB was able to refine its footprint, standard operation procedures and field craft.

1st Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, *Strike First!*

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery, *Strike First*, redeployed to Fort Hood, Texas, following their mission in support of Operation Spartan Shield, where they were responsible for the air defense of the combatant commander's strategic assets and operations in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility.

In August of 2017, the battalion was tasked as the 1st Battalion, 62nd Air Defense Artillery pusher unit while that unit serves as the U.S. Forces Command Patriot global response force. First-44th ADA augments deployment teams and supports equipment preparation for air load operations. Additionally, the battalion assisted 1-62nd ADA in their mission readiness exercise by serving as observers, coaches and trainers. E Battery, 1-44th ADA executed an M2 Range Aug. 30-31, qualifying 15 crews across the battalion. A Battery, 1-44th ADA successfully completed their Air Defense Gunnery Table (ADGT) VIII certification in order to maintain readiness in accordance with the sustainment readiness model.

In September of 2017, B Battery, 1-44th ADA successfully completed their ADGT VIII certification in order to maintain readiness in accordance with the Sustainment Readiness Model. C Battery, 1-44th ADA supported Fort Hood's efforts for M320A1, M205, M240 and M4A1 fielding. First-44th ADA supported 1-62nd ADA's refueling operations and their certification with Patriot equipment in preparation for their upcoming deployment. Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1-44th ADA executed an M249 Range on Sept. 12 qualifying 17 crews across the battalion. The battalion staff conducted a battalion staff exercise in order to assess sustainment, protection, tactical operation center procedures, and mission command tasks. First-44th ADA received commendable ratings during the battalion environmental compliance inspection conducted by Fort Hood's Environmental Control Management Office. C/1-44th ADA coordinated a unit volunteer opportunity with Habitat for Humanity to renovate the home of a military veteran.

Soldiers from 1-44th ADA supported Freedom March Sept. 11 at West Ward Elementary School, the battalion's adopted school, as a tribute of remembrance and honor to those we lost in the terror attacks of 9/11. The Soldiers served as road guards and marched with the students to celebrate the nation's freedom.

In October, 1-44th ADA successfully conducted a battalion field training exercise Sept. 25 to Oct. 5, to validate staff competency; certify HHB on ADGT VIII, and certify units on ADGT IVc. B/1-44th ADA conducted forklift reload training and certification for 1/3 crews with 13/15 completing ADGT IVc certification. Sixty-eight personnel conducted entry control point operations. They searched personnel, reacted to improvised explosive devices (IEDs)/vehicle-borne IEDs, and a person with an IED in accordance with the training and evaluation outlines. C/1-44th conducted missile reload training in preparation for their upcoming ADGT VIII, Reconfigurable Table Top Trainer (RT-3) Lab training with engagement control station crews 1 and 2, and ADGT V-VI for all crews to include reconnaissance selection and occupation of a position (RSOP). D Battery, 1-44th ADA conducted a tactical 30K road march controlled by the battalion. E/1-44th ADA conducted Patriot Multi-Echelon Training led by intermediate support element team training for maintenance personnel. E/1-44th also conducted 36 vehicle service operations, night vision goggle training, night driver's familiarization and recovery training, and facilitated battery training objectives. First-44th ADA's Supply Support Activity operations resulted in a 100 percent commendable rating during the 32nd AAMDC Command Supply Discipline Program inspection. C/1-44th ADA conducted 28 hours of training in the RT-3 Lab with ECS Crew 1 and Crew 2 to sustain their AMD proficiency. They accomplished this in addition to conducting training on ADGT V-VII for over 54 hours of collective march order and emplacement drills.

In November, 1-44th ADA participated in the 69th Brigade field training exercise, Lightning Odyssey, from Nov. 1-8, to validate

the battalion's readiness to execute its mission in an austere environment. On Nov. 1, the battalion conducted a recall and executed a deployment readiness exercise Level 2 for deployment. Upon getting a tactical order, the staff conducted military decision making processes and published a warning order to the subordinate units. After being given a road-to-war brief from the brigade, the battalion received orders and conducted a tactical convoy to Training Area 35. HHB/1-44th, A/1-44th and D/1-44th emplaced in their respective locations in support of the brigade's AMD mission requirements. During site occupation, the batteries conducted priorities of work by unit standard operating procedures, employing force protection measures for site security, while posturing to respond to AMD threats. The batteries sustained their AMD proficiency in the field by employing its RSOP team with two site jumps, while the crews participated in 10 netted air battles with the information and coordination central and brigade ADA fire control operations. Reload crews and all launcher crews conducted daily drills with five launchers. Table IV testing for 14E and 14T air defenders was administered in the field in order to build sustainment crews for upcoming Table VIII certifications. Furthermore, Nov. 2-8 the units conducted four standalone launcher crew certifications.

1st Battalion, 62nd Air Defense Artillery, Aim High

In January of 2017, the *Aim High Battalion* finalized a three-month long equipment reset of all tactical vehicles and weapon systems. This phase highlighted the tenacity and overall capability of every unit's respective maintenance section and postured the battalion for follow-on training with upgraded equipment.

The following month, units deployed to tactical field environments throughout Fort Hood, Texas. In February, batteries executed initial and advanced gunnery training which resulted in successful Table VIII mobility certifications.

In early March of 2017, select operators throughout the *Aim High Battalion* were selected to participate in the prestigious Combined Air Defense Working Group exercise in Israel. Throughout this exercise, 1st Battalion, 62nd Air Defense Artillery exemplified their ability to stay at the forefront of the air and missile defense (AMD) community. Additionally, tacticians were exposed to combined and joint AMD operations and tactics.

The *Aim High Battalion* continued tactical operations throughout the month of April and finalized training with a culminating training event (CTE). First-62nd ADA executed the CTE as a full deployment rehearsal, validating the execution of unit movement operations, tactical convoys and finalized with completion of Table VIII gunnery for primary crews. The successful completion of this exercise validated the battalion's overall readiness to assume the global response force mission. For the next 90 days, 1-62nd ADA maintained a readiness level postured to answer any global emergency call requiring a Patriot force.

Following the successful CTE, the unit continued to refine and sharpen its tactical capabilities through the preparation and execution of the Standardized Patriot Engagement Assessment of Readiness (SPEAR). Batteries continued to train hard throughout the summer to certify to 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command gunnery standards. Following SPEAR, 1-62nd ADA provided critical support to the 11th Brigade mission rehearsal exercise, setting the stage for cooperation during the follow-on deployment in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility (AOR).

In August, the *Aim High Battalion* used seven months of tactical training in a final mission rehearsal exercise (MRE). Throughout

this exercise, 1-62nd ADA demonstrated its expertise and preparedness for the upcoming deployment. The overall result of this exercise demonstrated to 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade that 1-62nd ADA was fully capable to execute its assigned deployment mission.

Soldiers in 1-62 ADA recovered from the MRE and immediately began equipment movement operations for vessel and strategic airlift deployment to the CENTCOM AOR. On Oct. 31, the *Aim High Battalion* cased its colors for deployment to Kuwait. Lt. Col. Ayodele Lawson and Command Sgt. Maj. Juan Jimenez thanked all families and friends of the 1-62nd ADA for their unwavering support, enabling the success of the battalion.

4th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery, Renegades

In January of 2017, the *Renegade Battalion* conducted a final field training exercise prior to their deployment to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility (AOR) which resulted in all crews in the battalion becoming Gunnery Table VIII certified. The next month, the *Renegades* finished all preparations for their transition to a new mission, to conduct theater air and missile defense operations and deter enemy attacks against all assigned assets across Kuwait. At the end of February, the *Renegade Battalion* conducted their colors casing ceremony, said farewell to their families, and departed from Robert Grey Army Airfield to their new home for the next nine months.

In March of 2017, the battalion arrived in the CENTCOM AOR and began their three week relief in place transition with 1st Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery. Later that month, the *Renegades* completed the certification of all engagement control stations, battery command posts, and information coordination central crews, the transfer of authority and assumed the role of the *Knockdown Battalion*. The battalion immediately began re-evaluating all processes from their predecessors to ensure they were completing the mission as efficiently as possible.

While forward deployed, the *Renegade Battalion* was given three priorities by the battalion commander, Lt. Col. Karen Rutka, and Command Sgt. Maj. James Brazill. Priority No. 1: Warfighting readiness: Maintain the highest levels of crew proficiency, combat readiness and tactical proficiency. Priority No. 2 Maintenance/logistics readiness: Maintain over a 90 percent operational readiness rate, conduct a thorough preventative maintenance service plan and be good stewards of tax-payer dollars by executing strict Command Supply Discipline Programs. Priority No. 3 Soldier/family readiness: Encourage and empower all Soldiers to continue their professional military education (PME), conduct risk management/mitigation during all operations, and execute constant communication with the battalion rear detachment.

The *Renegade Battalion* was active in numerous joint, combined and multi-echelon exercises while deployed in support of Operation Spartan Shield. The battalion's added emphasis on building relations with their Kuwaiti Air Defence Force partners proved to be invaluable. The *Renegades'* strong relationship with their KADF partners enabled a greater shared tactical understanding and paved the way for all future operations. In June, select leaders from the *Renegade Battalion* were chosen to participate in a war-gaming exercise to rehearse and validate the current battalion, brigade, and division operation plans.

Throughout the deployment, the *Renegades* have consistently had the highest Army Physical Fitness Test average in the brigade. Additionally, five noncommissioned officers graduated from the

Patriot Master Gunner Course, the battalion participated in four air and missile defense and joint air defense exercises, and implemented microwave line of site into the communications plan. With the final few months of the deployment nearing, the battalion began refocusing its mission toward redeployment and equipment reset. The battalion is transitioning from the mission module to the prepare module of the Army Sustainable Readiness Model in order to sustain combat power and remain prepared for all future operations.

108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, Spartans

The 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, *Spartans*, Fort Bragg, N.C., deployed in January to serve as the *Top Notch* brigade in support of U.S. Army Forces, and U.S. Central Command operations in Southwest Asia. The brigade split operations between CENTCOM and Fort Bragg while conducting missile defense of five different countries in the area of operations.

While deployed, the brigade participated in a regional air and missile defense exercise, joint air defense exercise, and multiple transition to war exercises with its subordinate battalions. This tested preparedness and the units' capability to transition to an active warfighting state. The brigade conducted two Top Notch Best Warrior Competitions drawing from the forward battalions which highlighted the achievements of the deployed Soldiers. The brigade also hosted a Patriot Master Gunner Course at its forward facilities.

During this time the brigade oversaw the redeployment of 3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, and the deployment of the 1st Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery, to the CENTCOM area of responsibility.

The brigade redeployed in October after transferring authority to 11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade.

108th ADA Brigade Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/108thADA/>

Col. Joseph McCallion Jr. addresses the Soldiers of the Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, inside of a hanger on Pope Airfield, Fort Bragg, N.C. This was moments before they boarded a plane to begin their nine-month deployment to Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, Jan. 19, 2017. (Courtesy photo)



1st Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, began the year in preparation for their upcoming deployment to Southwest Asia.

The battalion completed their operational readiness exercise in May. In August, the battalion deployed to replace 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade's 3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.

Currently the battalion is divided between three countries in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility, where they are responsible for providing ballistic missile defense for critical U.S. and allied assets.

1-7th ADA Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/17ADABN/>

3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, Skystrikers

Soldiers of 3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, spent the majority of the year overseas in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. The battalion was divided between three countries in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. They were responsible for providing ballistic missile defense support for critical U.S. and allied assets.

While deployed to CENTCOM, the battalion participated in Joint Air Defense Exercise 17-01, Air and Missile Defense Exercise 17-1, and two ballistic missile defense exercises. While deployed, each Patriot battery (B, C and D) and the two information coordination central Soldiers conducted and passed Table VIII certifications amidst numerous mission readiness exercises. During the deployment, 3-4th ADA achieved the highest evaluation scores among three other battalions.

The battalion redeployed to Fort Bragg, N.C., in September, where they are preparing for the next mission.

While the battalion was away, E Battery, 3-4th ADAR, the Army's only airborne air defense unit, carried on missions at Fort Bragg, conducting a Table VIII Avenger live-fire exercise at Camp Lejeune, N.C., in January and a Table X live-fire with Avengers and Stinger missiles in June.

E Battery used its unique capabilities to provide support to multiple components throughout the year. One platoon supported

A Soldier in 1st Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, conducts preventative maintenance checks and services on a vehicle during a deployment readiness exercise held at Fort Bragg, N.C., Jan. 22, 2017. (Staff Sgt. John Healy/ HHB 108th ADA BDE)





A paratrooper, 82nd Airborne Division, conducts a nighttime jump into Grant County International Airport, Wash., in support of Exercise Mobility Guardian Aug. 3, 2017. (Staff Sgt. Kyle Brasier/ U.S. Air Force)

1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, during Raider Focus, a brigade field training exercise from April to May. Another platoon supported the 1st SBCT, 4th ID, during National Training Center Rotation 17-07.5 from June to July. A platoon supported 1st Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, as part of Task Force Red Devil during Exercise Mobility Guardian held at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. There they conducted planning with the battalion and a joint forcible entry operation to seize Grant County International Airport in Moses Lake, Wash., by parachute assault in August. A platoon deployed to Fort Polk, La., to support 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, during Joint Readiness Training Center Rotation 18-01 in September. And a platoon deployed to Yuma, Ariz., to support the United States Marine Corps Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course 1-18, integrating with B Battery, 3rd Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion (USMC SHORAD) in September.

Notably, five Soldiers and noncommissioned officers from E/3-4th ADA, supported the Maneuver Fires Experiment 2017 at Fort Sill, Okla., in March to test emerging air defense weapons, including a high-energy laser.

3-4th ADAR Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/3rd-Battalion-Airborne-4th-Air-Defense-Artillery-Regiment-338507583970/>

94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command, Sea Dragons

The 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command headquarters is located at Joint Base Pearl-Harbor Hickam on the island of

Oahu, Hawaii. The 94th AAMDC, known as the *Sea Dragons*, is one of several theater-enabling commands within the Pacific Rim. The units' mission is to provide joint and combined theater air and missile defense in order to meet operations plans (OPLAN) requirements and support the rebalance to the Asia-Pacific area operation.

The 94th AAMDC is integral to joint and combined air and missile defense in the Pacific theater of operations. The year 2017 was productive and busy for the command. North Korea continued to prove itself as one of the greatest security threats in the Asia-Pacific region by testing nuclear weapons and launching multiple ballistic missiles, including the first successful launch from a submarine. In response to these provocations, the 94th AAMDC developed and executed an accelerated deployment of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system to the Republic of Korea, which became operational in May 2017. The operation spearheaded the command's efforts to update the Area Air Defense Plan for the Korean theater of operations.

The *Sea Dragons* continue to strengthen Integrated Air and Missile Defense (IAMD) capabilities throughout the Pacific region by participating in multiple bilateral, trilateral and joint training exercises including: Keen Edge, Key Resolve, Pacific Sentry/Talisman Saber, Virtual Flag and Ulchi Freedom Guardian. During last year's Key Resolve exercise, Soldiers from the 94th AAMDC headquarters deployed to the Republic of Korea where the unit's commanding general, Brig. Gen. Sean Gainey, served as the deputy area air defense commander (DAADC). As the DAADC, Gainey is the primary advisor for the Pacific Air Force and the 7th Air Force



Soldiers from the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command work on their equipment. (Courtesy photo)

in support of the Area Air Defense Plan and facilitates coordination, communication and operations with all IAMD within the Pacific Region. The exercise allowed the command to work closely with their Korean partners refining their tactics, techniques and procedures.

The 94th AAMDC commander also serves as the senior air defense commander (SADC), and the theater Army air and missile defense coordinator (TAAMDC) for joint and combined operations.

In his role as the SADC, he provides mission command to all forward deployed Army AMD forces and supports the United States Army Pacific commander by providing IAMD oversight. When acting as the TAAMDC, the 94th AAMDC commander coordinates AAMD in support of the USARPAC commander and the land component.

The 94th AAMDC also maintains mission command elements at Osan Air Base, Korea and Yokota Air Base, Japan. These small elements facilitate planning and execution of joint and combined air and missile defense operations with the 7th Air Force, Eighth Army, United States Forces Korea/Combined Forces Command and the Republic of Korea Air and Missile Defense forces; United States Forces Japan and Japanese Air Defense Security Forces (JASDF) Air Defense Command; and 18th Air Wing, JASDF 5th Air Defense Missile Group and the Naha Direction Center; respectively.

Today, our forward stationed missile defense units in the Pacific theater continues to participate in regional and theater-level exercises, building partnership capacity with allies and partners in order to remain the *First Line of Defense* against an ever-increasing ballistic missile threat in the region. The *Sea Dragons* are proud to be part of the premier Army air and missile defense command capable of quickly transitioning to war while remaining Focused Forward to execute our combat mission at any time.

Unit Webpage: www.army.mil/94thAAMDC

Unit Facebook: www.facebook.com/94thaamdc

Unit Flickr: www.flickr.com/photos/94thaamdc/

1st Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery Regiment, *Snake Eyes*

The 1st Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery Regiment, also known as the *Snake Eyes Battalion*, is located at Kadena Air Force Base on the island of Okinawa, Japan. In 2017, 1-1st ADA exercised its expeditionary capability supporting the U.S. Pacific Command's

theater-wide requirements for air and missile defense while maintaining the battalion's air defense commitments in Okinawa, Japan. On two separate occasions, the battalion mobilized and deployed a Patriot Missile System battery to the Korean theater of operation. The dedicated Soldiers of A and B Batteries, 1-1st ADA proved the battalion could successfully conduct an emergency deployment and serve as a U.S. Pacific Command flexible deterrent option. In addition to exercising our force projection capabilities, the battalion's alert batteries, C Battery, 1-1st ADA and D Battery, 1-1st ADA, maintained an increased state of alert for several months due to an increase of North Korean provocations and multiple missile launches. The *Snake Eyes Battalion* continues to maintain Patriot Missile Systems batteries tactically emplaced and ready to protect defended assets in Okinawa while proving its ability to extend influence elsewhere in Japan, and throughout the Pacific.

The 1-1st ADA continues to strengthen combined and joint military relationships in Japan. The battalion maintains bi-lateral partnerships with the Japan Air Self Defense Force's 5th Air Defense Missile Group and the Japan Ground Self Defense Force's 15th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Regiment. Routine training is conducted to enhance air defense interoperability with the 5th ADMG's Patriot fire units and improve integration with the 15th AAR's short range Type 81 Surface to Air Missile or Tan-SAM and the Type 3 Medium Range Surface to Air Missile or Chu-SAM weapons systems. Simultaneously, joint partnerships continue to build with the 18th Wing at Kadena Airbase. With the help of 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command's forward liaison element and air defense artillery fire control officers, the *Snake Eyes Battalion* is able to conduct monthly joint defensive counter air training with the 18th Wing's F-15 Fighter Squadrons, E-3rd Sentry aircraft in the Airborne Air Control Squadron, controllers in 623rd Air Control Squadron and the U.S. Marine Corps' Air Control Squadron. Additional partnerships have been established with rotational U.S. Navy Mobile Construction Battalions (SEABEES) to enhance protection and site improvements for 1-1st ADA's Patriot batteries. A joint effort between the United States Navy, Army and Marines for a new Patriot Missile System site has been initiated on Marine Corp Air Station Futenma that greatly improves the defense coverage of Okinawa. The unit was also aided by effort from 311th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, United States Army Reserve, who provided additional maintenance aid for services and equipment.

The *Snake Eyes Battalion* also supported the combined and joint

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery Regiment, conduct missile reload operations. (Courtesy photo)



team in Okinawa by participating in several training exercises to demonstrate strength in the Pacific theater. Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) defense Soldiers from 1-1st ADA were able to partner with the 18th Civil Engineer Squadron and 18th Medical Group of the U.S. Air Force as well as the 15th Nuclear, Biological Chemical Unit of the Japan Ground Self Defense Force in a joint-bilateral CBRN exchange. First-1st ADA was also able to partner with the 5th ADMG and 15th AAR in a bilateral air-load exercise involving equipment from all three units being loaded onto a C-17 Globemaster III.

Snake Eyes Soldiers also received recognition for their hard work and dedication to mission accomplishment. Spc. Christopher Turchio was recognized as the 94th AAMDC Soldier of the Year, and the battalion's best engagement control station, launcher and battery command post crews were recognized at the annual Missile Defender of the Year banquet hosted by the Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance.

As the *Snake Eyes Battalion* looks forward to 2018, it will remain focused on its strategic mission as the *First Line of Defense* continuing its mission as ambassadors to Japanese counterparts, and extending the battalion's expeditionary capabilities to new reaches in the Pacific.

Unit Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/1.1AirDefenseArtillery/>

Task Force Talon

Task Force Talon is located at Andersen Air Force Base in the United States territory of Guam. The task force is comprised of permanently stationed personnel from E Battery, 3rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment and rotational Soldiers from 307th Expeditionary Signal and 728th Military Police Battalions. Established in 2013, TF Talon is the U.S. Army's first, forward stationed, Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) unit, with a mission to deter and neutralize ballistic missile threats to Guam in order to support U.S. Pacific Command regional homeland defense and strategic objectives.

In 2017, TF Talon remained trained and prepared to execute its wartime mission while playing a key role in the Pacific theater assurance and deterrence campaign. TF Talon conducted intensive crew drills, air defense gunnery table qualifications, multi-day air battles, typhoon preparedness march-order and emplacement drills, and force protection exercises to maintain a high level of readiness. Additional training focused on joint integration with the 36th Wing during its annual Operational Readiness Exercise on Andersen AFB. The task force facilitated joint training objectives by incorporating simulated ballistic missile threats, early warning, reporting procedures and chemical weapons attacks during simulated wartime scenarios. Finally, TF Talon supported the establishment of THAAD capability on the Korean peninsula by providing equipment and trained crews to expand the regional ballistic missile defense (BMD).

Throughout the year, readiness remained at the forefront for TF Talon. E/3rd ADAR sustained *Fight Tonight* readiness through participation in various battle readiness exercises with Pacific Fleet and 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command (AAMDC). These efforts culminated during a heightened posture that allowed the unit to synchronize and facilitate BMD efforts in support of Guam Homeland Defense. E Battery, 3rd ADAR THAAD will continue to demonstrate their ability to execute integrated air and missile defense operations with various services in order to maintain their high level of readiness.



A Task Force Talon Soldier inspects the unit's equipment. (Courtesy photo)

Informing national and partner-nation senior leaders regarding the strategic role of THAAD and the BMD system is a critical part of TF Talon's mission. Notable distinguished visitors over the past year included Assistant Secretary of Defense (Energy, Installations and Environment) Lucian Niemeyer, Vice Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. James McConville, Deputy Commanding General of Republic of Korea/U.S. Combined Forces Command Gen. Kim Byung Joo, and several members of the Senate and House Armed Services Committees and their staff. These visits highlighted the strategic importance of Guam and set the conditions for permanency support, THAAD capabilities and the high degree of readiness demonstrated by the task force's team.

In August 2017, TF Talon initiated permanency planning in support of THAAD's enduring mission set on Guam. To shape this effort, TF Talon hosted the initial area development plan symposium with key stakeholders from 36th Wing, Naval Computer and Telecommunications Stations, 130th Engineer Brigade, 58th Military Police Company, THAAD Program Office, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas, 94th AAMDC and other various agency representatives. This session allowed the task force command team and staff to introduce critical permanency requirements and synchronize future construction efforts. This will set the foundation for the upcoming site improvement process led by TF Talon and NAVFAC to identify a prioritized project list, site designs, overall cost estimates and future glide path to site permanency.

Despite a high operational tempo, TF Talon continues to build a strong relationship with communities on Guam through support to local schools, island celebrations and other projects. This year, TF Talon Soldiers partnered with Machananao Elementary School, to establish a physical education program which provided physical conditioning and nutrition training to students (kindergarten through fifth grade). This allowed students to interact with Soldiers and understand the importance of staying fit and healthy. TF Talon Soldiers proudly marched in the 2017 Guam Liberation Day Parade honoring the end of Japanese occupation during World War II. The unit contributed over 200 hours to local United Service Chapters, the Guam Island Beautification Program, and the Dededo Village Saint Barbara's Festival.

In the upcoming year, the task force will continue to hone its technical skills and maintain wartime readiness. THAAD advanced capabilities continue to play a pivotal role in strategic ef-

forts to protect national interests, assure coalition partners and deter adversaries within the USPACOM theater. The Soldiers of TF Talon remain ready to meet the threats of today and postured to prevail in the future for the defense of Guam.

Stands Ready!

Unit Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TaskForceTalon-94thAAMDC/>

Unit Website: <http://www.andersen.af.mil/TaskForceTalon/>

10th Missile Defense Battery, *Samurai*

The 10th Missile Defense Battery is located at the Shariki Communications Site in Shariki, Japan, and falls under the operational control of the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command. The battery was established Sept. 26, 2006, as the first AN/TPY-2 radar installation in Japan and became the first new military installation to open in Japan since the end of WWII.

The 10th MDB mission is to detect and track theater ballistic missiles and disseminate the missile defense data to joint and allied units. Data collected and shared provides early warning and detection of hostile missile launches as part of the United States Pacific Command missile early warning architecture and greatly enhances the defense of USPACOM assets and the continental United States.

Soldiers of the 10th MDB conduct robust community relations operations in Shariki, Japan. In the past year, the battery has participated in over 50 local festivals and events. They include parades in the local cities of Tsugaru and Goshogawara in which battery Soldiers pushed a 23-ton parade float through the city streets. The unit also hosts English classes for the local children, and welcomes numerous community, city and prefecture leaders to visit the radar site. The importance of the community relations program at Shariki Communications Site cannot be overstated. It is critical to maintaining strong and positive relationships with Japanese Self Defense Forces, the Government of Japan, local governments and citizens.

On Sept. 14, the battery took another step forward in solidifying the United States relationship with the Japanese forces by conducting their first bi-lateral female mentorship event. Soldiers, contractors and family members of SCS gathered with Japanese Air Self Defense Force airmen and local police officers for an innovative program within the Japanese community. The women met for an icebreaker lunch, allowing everyone an opportunity to meet their counterparts before they attended an instructional course on the traditional wear of a yukata, the summer kimono.

Soldiers from the 10th Missile Defense Battery stand in formation. (Courtesy photo)



The following month the women of Shariki welcomed Col. Juanita Clarke, the U.S. Army Japan G4, as their guest for an official discussion on mentorship and career progression. Clarke was a phenomenal speaker and found ways to relate her message to each individual in the room, regardless of their profession, age or background. Her participation in the event made a huge impact on the small population of women in the Shariki area as the two cultures collided in shared experiences, and learned about new challenges that each face. The program includes personnel from both sides to coordinate and plan events that incorporate cultural lessons, defining discussions and influential guest speakers.

As the Soldiers of the *Samurai Battery* continue to transition and grow as a battery, the focus remains on the strategic mission as the *First Line of Defense* as well as the local mission as ambassadors to the Japanese people.

Unit Facebook: www.facebook.com/10thMDBSharikiCommunicationsSite/

14th Missile Defense Battery, *Hayabusa*

The 14th Missile Defense Battery provides long-range detection, tracking, classification and discrimination for the engagement of strategic and theater ballistic missile threats in support of the U.S. Pacific Command's area of responsibility and United States homeland defense. The unit was activated Oct. 22, 2014, and is located at the Kyogamisaki Communications Site in Kyogamisaki, Japan. It falls under the operational control of the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command.

Soldiers in 14th MDB successfully tracked and processed all ballistic missile launches originating in North Korea with aid through the sensor manager cell, based in Hawaii, feeding data to the 100th Missile Defense Brigade and cueing various radar sensors throughout U.S. Army Strategic Command and PACOM to provide early warning of theater and strategic missile threats to the Pacific area of operations and the United States homeland.

The Kyogamisaki Communications Site is leading the effort to update the Command and Control Battle Management and Communications architecture through the integration of Spiral 8.2 software to the system in this period.

Soldiers in 14th MDB hosted distinguished visitors from various U.S. and Japanese governments and military organizations throughout the year. Those visitors included Gen. Terrence O'Shaughnessy, Maj. Gen James Pasquerette, Maj. Gen Shigeki Nakahara, Adm. Satoshi Kikuchi, Brig. Gen Sean Gainey, Consulate Gen. Greenberg, Kinki-Chubu and Defense Bureau Director Gen. Makoto Fujishiro, among many others. The battery provided information about site operations and developments. The battery worked to develop a guard and protect plan for site defense in contingency operations with Japanese Ground Self Defense Forces in addition to moving range operations to a nearby Japanese facility.

Since 14th MDB's activation within the Kyoto Prefecture, winning the hearts and minds of the people has been the unit's secondary mission by integrating with the local populous. Developing relations on a remote location can be challenging. Building trust, overcoming language barriers and showing care for the people have been goals *Hayabusa Battery* has achieved. Community involvement has also helped earn the respect and build comradery between 14th MDB and the Japanese people. Activities included aiding in the cleanup of beaches; participating in monthly sporting events with the Japanese Air Self Defense Forces; and hosting seasonal events to celebrate American holidays with the aid of the city government, Kinki-Chubu Defense Bureau, Ministry of De-



Soldiers from the 14th Missile Defense Battery run in formation during physical training. (Courtesy photo)

fense and Government of Japan. Through humanitarian efforts and active involvement within the community and collaborating with various military and government agencies, 14th MDB has taken part in more than 150 community outreach events.

In 14th MDB's short history in Kyogamisaki, the unit has overcome many challenges and has grown a positive reputation in this region of Japan. By supporting the areas of responsibility and developing deep relationships with the local communities, more great things are to follow in the coming years. *Eyes to the Sky!*

Unit Facebook: www.facebook.com/14MDB

30th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, Heart of the Branch

Beginning in April 2017, the 30th Air Defense Artillery Brigade launched the Maneuver-Stinger Team training course in support of U.S. Army Forces Command requirements for the integration of Man-Portable Air-Defense Systems. Transformational change was undertaken in the 140E, Air and Missile Defense systems Tactician/Technician Course with the split to 140 K/L which will allow for a higher degree of specialization between tactical and technical functions.

Air defense strategic relationships between the U.S. and its' allies were strengthened and expanded this year, facilitated in large part by the brigade's foreign military training efforts. Training requirements were established for three new Patriot missile system partners: Poland, Romania and Sweden. This codification of training requirements opens the door for an increased level of partnership, and will ultimately provide increased coverage for NATO allies from airborne threats within European Command. Initial efforts to facilitate allied involvement in the Terminal High Altitude Air Defense program were undertaken this year with Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Japan paving the way for elevated partnership capacities.

The brigade continued to serve as a community leader with a variety of outreach efforts being undertaken this year, hosting both the Lawton/Fort Sill, Okla., Special Olympics and first annual Quarry Challenge in conjunction with a new co-op program partner, Dolese Bros. Co. Additionally, the brigade continued ongoing volunteer efforts with the Lawton/Fort Sill Veterans Center, Chamber of Commerce Armed Forces Day Parade, and Army Partnership with Local Schools program.

35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, Dragon Brigade

The 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, *Dragon Brigade*, increased lethality and capability to outpace adversary threats on the Korean Peninsula throughout 2017. A year highlighted by transformation, the brigade executed the largest Patriot modernization project ever conducted outside the continental U.S., realigned the brigade's only Short Range Air Defense (SHORAD) battery and integrated the first Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system into the layered ballistic missile defense structure in the Republic of Korea.

The first two of four THAAD launchers arrived on the Korean Peninsula in March, and Soldiers from D Battery, 2nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, out of Fort Bliss, Texas, quickly achieved initial operating capability at a remote site near Camp Carroll, South Korea. Over the ensuing months, additional U.S. units, coupled with ROK forces, were collocated with D/2nd ADA in order to provide support and security of the launchers. The totality of the forces resulted in the creation of Combined Task Force Defender, the moniker to symbolize the sole THAAD battery and supporting elements in South Korea.

Both the *Guardian* and *Ironhorse Battalions* played a critical role in the reception, staging, onward movement and integration (RSO&I) of the THAAD system, ultimately ensuring the success of the new capability in the Korean theater of operations. Since the arrival of the THAAD system, the brigade at large has supported three large-scale logistical movements. The first provided D/2nd ADA with the equipment needed for initial operating capability. The second provided the battery with equipment for full operating capability, and the third movement transported equipment to improve the site infrastructure, site defense and the overall quality of life for the Soldiers.

The *Dragon Brigade* now employs the most advanced technology within the branch after overhauling the entire Patriot fleet. Improvements include: Post Deployment Build 8.0 technology, software to operate new radar circuitry, upgrades to increase wide band search sensitivity, flat panel monitors with touch screen technology, built-in test equipment, and the replacement of many legacy hardware systems with smaller more capable units. The Patriot

A Terminal High Altitude Area Defense launching station from the 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade arrives at Osan Air Base, South Korea March 6, 2017 as part of an alliance decision to bolster ballistic missile defense throughout the peninsula. (Capt. Jonathon Daniell/U.S. Army)



modernization cements the *Dragon Brigade* as the most advanced and lethal brigade within the ADA community.

The brigade implemented an internal Electronic Power Plant (EPP) rebuild program with U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command to refit the Patriot 150k generators located on the peninsula. The emphasis behind the partnership is to increase readiness by reducing unavailability time. The U.S. Army Central area of operation is the only other established remote EPP rebuild program for ADA outfits.

In addition to participating in two peninsula-wide training exercises annually, Key Resolve and Ulchi Freedom Guardian, the brigade leveraged the Air Force-centric training exercise, Vigilant Ace, to validate multiple essential tasks. First, the brigade staff ran full operations to battle-track subordinate units as they occupied contingency locations and conducted certification tables. Second, from the battery to the brigade, the crews and staff tested the network architecture by linking into the joint kill chain both vertically and horizontally.

The brigade staff conducted site surveys of their wartime fighting locations around South Korea and created battle books to support contingency operations in the event additional forces are deployed to the region. The creation of the books, coupled with updating the brigade RSO&I plan, ensures 35th ADA Brigade stands prepared for any potential conflict.

The brigade headquarters hosted multiple troop qualification courses to ensure the most deserving candidates represented the brigade at their respected school or competition. The rigorous training events netted overwhelming results as Soldiers throughout the brigade earned the Expert Field Medical Badge, the Air Assault Badge and represented Eighth Army at the U.S. Army Pacific Command Best Warrior competition.

Finally, Col. Rick Wright assumed command of 35th ADA Brigade from Col. Mark Holler in a change of command ceremony June 9, and Command Sgt. Maj. Wilfredo Suarez assumed responsibility of the brigade from Command Sgt. Maj. Eric McCray Dec. 19, both at Osan Air Base, South Korea.

6th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, *Ironhorse*

Throughout 2017, the *Ironhorse Battalion* continued to raise the collective bar in every aspect of their mission. They executed the realignment of the sole Avenger/Sentinel battery on peninsula, strengthened the alliance through joint training exercises, demonstrated the highest levels of Patriot readiness, sustained perishable Soldier skills, hosted countless VIP and media visits, and implemented a Korean immersion class to foster cultural understanding of South Korea.

After years of the brigade's only Short Range Air Defense (SHORAD) unit being under the operational control of the 2nd Infantry Division, the *Ironhorse Battalion* welcomed E Battery back to their formation during a patching ceremony April 23 at Camp Carroll, South Korea. While the battery still maintains their SHORAD mission near the Korean Demilitarized Zone, they also integrated into Combined Task Force Defender and play a critical role in the brigade's Terminal High Altitude Area Defense mission. E Battery executed a flawless displacement from Camp Casey, South Korea, and relocation to Camp Carroll while simultaneously conducting an in-stride Avenger Table VIII certification exercise at Chulmae Range in order to certify for their security forces mission of the THAAD tactical site.

In an effort to enhance interoperability, E Battery partnered

with the Republic of Korea 516th Infantry Battalion for the first combined SHORAD training event on the Korean Peninsula. The field exercise allowed the Republic of Korea and U.S. troops to gain familiarity with each other's weapon systems and capabilities, and lay the foundation for an enduring relationship. The event culminated with oppositional forces conducting a simulated perimeter attack with ROK Special Forces and reconnaissance helicopters.

The *Ironhorse Battalion* conducted Patriot modernizations by upgrading to PDB8.0/PAC3+ while simultaneously maintaining *Fight Tonight* readiness. To support this effort, *Ironhorse* integrated B Battery, 1st Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery from Okinawa, Japan, to maintain defended asset list coverage. While on peninsula, they were an added addition to the battalion and trained toward their Table XII goal.

Table VIII certifications remains the benchmark for achieving combat readiness for Patriot batteries, certifying beyond is rarely attempted due to the level of difficulty. However, for the first time since 2004, multiple Patriot batteries successfully completed Table XII certifications, demonstrating the units' dedication to their craft and rigorous training schedule. In order to achieve the coveted Table XII certification, batteries navigated a series of advanced air battles and conducted Patriot interceptor reload drills in a nuclear, biological, chemical environment.

Due to the high rate of personnel turnover in South Korea, the *Ironhorse Battalion* routinely works with combined and joint partners to preserve critical skills. Soldiers trained for a variety of missions, including joint air load training, sling load operations, aeromedical evacuation operations and noncombatant evacuation operations, all while maintaining Patriot crew excellence and weapon qualifications.

Ballistic missile defense remains paramount. Because of this, the current operational environment in the Pacific region continues to draw media interest from around the world. Throughout the course of the year, *Ironhorse* routinely welcomed media outlets from American news affiliates such as ABC, CBS and NBC, as well as international news outlets from Korea, France, Australia and Japan. They also served as the backdrop for a media press pool with the U.S. Pacific Command commander, U.S. Central Command commander, U.S. Forces Korea commander and deputy commander, U.S. Air Force Space and Missile Defense commander, and the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command commander, reinforcing the emphasis placed on ballistic missile defense on the Korean Peninsula.

Led by ROK Sgt. Maj. Byung-Joon Moon, *Ironhorse* Soldiers formed the Korean Language Group that cultivates cultural understanding through weekly immersion classes with ROK and U.S. Soldiers and local field trips. These events contribute to the selfless culture created by *Ironhorse*, which is often reflected in the large groups that participate in volunteer events that give back to the community.

2nd Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery Regiment, *Guardians*

The *Guardian Battalion* started 2017 with vigor, ready to dominate the mission at hand. The battalion moved forward and continued to maintain their *Fight Tonight* readiness through various means, to include the Post Deployment Build 8.0 upgrade and modernization of their entire Patriot inventory, crew certifications, field training exercises, and the implementation and integration of the first Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) unit on the Peninsula. The battalion also validated their noncombatant evacu-



1st Sgt. Learthur Williams, E Battery, 6th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery, removes the 2nd Infantry Division patch from Sgt. 1st Class Angel Cruz, Avenger platoon sergeant during a patching ceremony at Camp Carroll, Republic of Korea. (Staff Sgt. Monk M. Phan/ U.S. Army)

ation operations and devoted time to strengthening the Republic of Korea-U.S. partnership through combined training.

The *Guardian Battalion* became the first operational battalion in the U.S. Army to undergo the upgrade. In order to facilitate the Patriot modernization effort, the *Guardians* conducted a reception, staging, onward movement and integration of A Battery, 1st Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery Regiment, out of Okinawa, Japan. A/1-1st ADA supplemented the battalion's *Fight Tonight* mission by enabling the *Guardians'* Patriot equipment to undergo the modernization without reducing the battalion's capability. The battalion validated the upgrade by conducting multiple field training exercises and Air Defense Gunnery Table VIII certifications.

The *Guardians* capitalized on every opportunity to train Soldiers on additional mission essential tasks. This opportunity included managing and operating a landing zone within the battalion's consolidated motor pool, sling load training while delivering supplies to support the THAAD area of operation, concurrent low density training during live-fire ranges, and medical and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear training in preparation for the Best Warrior and Missile Defender of the Year competitions.

The *Guardians* continue to lead the brigade's effort in supporting D Battery, 2nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, the first THAAD unit in South Korea. They hosted the realignment ceremony for the battery on location, signifying the unit's hierarchical shift from

11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade to 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade. The battalion also played a critical role in transforming the rolling hills of Seongju from manicured greens, to a remote tactical site capable of supporting military operations.

The *Guardian's* maintenance company demonstrated absolute pride in professionalism as they were recognized with the Army Award for Maintenance Excellence for all of U.S. Army Pacific. The distinction reinforces the *Guardian* way of absolute excellence in one's commodity area for the betterment of the organization.

As tensions continue to rise in the Pacific region, Eighth Army emphasized the need to conduct readiness exercises for family members and civilians that support the mission on the Peninsula. The *Guardians* participated in Courageous Channel, a peninsula-wide exercise that rehearses noncombatant evacuation operations for family members and Department of Defense civilians. The *Guardians* demonstrated their ability to successfully evacuate all family members during the week-long exercise as Soldiers from the battalion validated their roles in managing and tracking personnel throughout each phase of the operation.

Finally, Lt. Col. Geoffrey Cole assumed command of 2-1st ADA from Lt. Col. Tony Dedmond Jr. in a change of command ceremony June 23, and Command Sgt. Maj. Aaron Wheeler assumed responsibility of the battalion from Command Sgt. Maj. Jerry Woodley April 20, both at Camp Carroll, South Korea.